

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 18-37 were previously pending in the application. Claims 19 and 33 are canceled; claims 18, 20-21, 25, 34, and 36 are amended; and new claims 38-39 are added herein. Assuming the entry of this amendment, claims 18, 20-32, and 34-39 are now pending in the application. The Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

Support for each of new claims 38 and 39 is found in previously presented claims 21 and 22.

In paragraph 2 of the final office action, the Examiner rejected claims 18, 26-28, 30, and 33-37 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hashimoto. In paragraph 4, the Examiner rejected claims 29 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto in view of Hadjichristos. In paragraph 5, the Examiner rejected claim 32 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto in view of Uriu. In paragraph 7, the Examiner objected to claims 19-25 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. For the following reasons, the Applicant submits that all of the now-pending claims are allowable over the cited references.

Claim 18 has been amended to include the features of previously pending claim 19. As such, currently amended claim 18 is equivalent to previously pending claim 19 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that previously pending claim 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that currently amended claim 18 is allowable. Claims 34 and 36 have been amended in an analogous manner as claim 18. As such, the Applicant submits that currently amended claims 34 and 36 are also allowable. Since claims 34 and 36 are amended in an analogous manner as claim 18, the Applicant submits that these amendments should raise no new issues for consideration by the Examiner. Since the rest of the claims depend variously from claims 18, 34, and 36, it is further submitted that those claims are also allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant believes that the now-pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicant believes that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, and early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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